

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 6, 2000**

**CONTACT: Helen O'Leary, Acting Public Information Officer/Executive Secretary  
(404) 656-4540 or 1-800-282-5813**

---

**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ISSUES PROPOSED NATURAL  
GAS MARKETER BILLING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ATLANTA**—The Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") unanimously voted Tuesday, September 5, 2000, to issue for public comment proposed rules setting standards by which natural gas marketers must bill consumers. This action stems from an analysis of some 9,000 gas billing complaints received by the Commission this year. Many consumers have reported that natural gas marketers have been billing them in an untimely and imprecise manner, leaving them in a state of confusion as to the true amounts owed on their accounts.

The proposed rules would prescribe basic standards for marketers requiring bills to be sent to customers in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner. The proposed rules would authorize the Commission to fine an offending company up to \$15,000 per violation. The rules, if adopted in their current form, would also relieve a customer of the obligation of paying for natural gas services that are billed beyond ninety (90) days from the date that the customer's meter is read. The Commission has requested that the Attorney General review this provision to ensure that it is constitutional. Based on the content of the public comments received and the Attorney General's advice, the proposed rules could be modified before they are adopted.

The Commission is accepting public comment on the proposed rules until October 10, 2000. The proposed rules are posted on the agency's web page ([www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us)). On November 7, 2000, the Commission will consider whether to adopt the rules in their present form or make modifications and send them out for further comment. If adopted, the rules will go into effect on the date they are recorded with the Secretary of State's Office. The rules would not have retroactive application, and, therefore, would not apply to current billing disputes. In addition, the proposed rules would not apply to Peachtree Natural Gas, LLC, which is in bankruptcy and under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court.